

Message Text

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R 172149Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 010818

.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 17 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. NINE ROCKETS FIRED INTO DOWNTOWN PP KILL 13 AND WOUND 10; ONE HIT FANK GENERAL STAFF HQ. (UPI N-A JAN. 16; AP NYT; WP). PP BOMBARDED ON 15 OF PAST 25 DAYS WITH UNOFFICIAL COUNT OF 38 KILLED, HUNDREDS WOUNDED. FANK REPORTS CONTINUED FIGHTING 5 TO 7 MILES NW OF PP WHERE GKR TROOPS ATTACK ENTRENCHED REBEL FORCE (AP, NYT).

2. SVN CHARGES PRC ILLEGALLY OCCUPIES ONE OF PARACEL ISLANDS (REUTER, NYT; AP CHITRIB, SUN; CSM). MARDER (WP) REVIEWS SVN-PRC DISPUTE OVER SPRATLY AND PARACELS, UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMENTS THAT MOST OF ISLANDS ARE UNINHABITED AND VISITED ONLY BY FISHERMEN, AND QUESTIONS OF OWNERSHIP ARISE PERIODICALLY BUT ARE MORE IMPORTANT NOW BECAUSE OF OIL PROSPECTS IN AREA. ON JAN. 11, PRC CHARGED SVN

IN "BRAZEN ANNOUNCEMENT" CLAIMED NANSHA (SPRATLY) ISLANDS THAT "LIKE HSISHA (PARACELS), CHUNGSHA (MACCLESFIELD BANK) AND TUNGSHA (PRATAS) ISLANDS ... HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CHINA'S TERRITORY". ROC AGREES WITH PRC THAT SOUTH CHINA SEA ISLANDS ARE CHINESE, CLASHED WITH MARCOS IN 1971 OVER CLAIM TO SPRATLY IS. SVN NOW THREATENS (UNDEFINED) "APPROPRIATE MEASURES" AGAINST PRC LANDING

ON ISLANDS. MARDER QUOTES DOS SPOKESMAN THAT US HAS NO CLAIM TO ISLANDS AND OTHERWISE NOT INVOLVED, AND IT IS FOR CLAIMANTS TO SETTLE AMONG THEMSELVES. ALSO QUOTES US SOURCES THAT INTERNATIONAL ADJUDICATION, NOT TESTS OF STRENGTH, SHOULD BE USED TO SOLVE SUCH DISPUTES. REUTER TICKER REPORTS SVN MILITIA AND BOATS FIRED ON CHINESE ON ROBERT ISLAND.

3. SOUTHERLAND (CSM) QUOTES US OFFICIALS IN SAIGON THAT CONTINUED LOW-LEVEL WARFARE IN SVN HAS PREVENTED "PHASE-OUT" OF DAO WHIN ONE YEAR OF C-F AS ONCE HOPED. DAO STILL NUMBERS ABOUT 1000, OF WHOM MORE THAN 900 ARE CIVILIANS; DOD ALSO HAS ABOUT 2800 CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS TO TRAIN VNAF AND FOR COMMO AND SUPPLY AID. SOUTHERLAND COMMENTS THAT "APPARENTLY AS PART OF GENERAL CLAMPDOWN ON FLOW OF INFORMATION TO NEWSMEN IMPOSED BY AMBASSADOR GRAHAM MARTIN, CHIEF OF DAO, MG MURRAY, HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT GIVE ANY MORE INTERVIEWS TO NEWSMEN".

4. GETLER (WP) WRITES THAT LAIRD AND SCHLESINGER APPEAR TO DISAGREE OVER WISDOM OF RENEWED US BOMBING IN EVENT LARGE-SCALE FIGHTING ERUPTS IN SVN. IN TUESDAY TV INTERVIEW, LAIRD SAID COULD NOT RECOMMEND US REINVOLVEMENT IN ANY FASHION AND HE BELIEVES CONGRESS "SHOULD AND WOULD" REJECT ANY WH REQUEST FOR BOMBING AUTHORITY. SCHLESINGER, IN RECENT INTERVIEWS, SAID HE BELIEVES SUCH A REQUEST TO CONGRESS "HIGHLY UNCLASSIFIED

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LIKELY" IF ALL-OUT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE OCCURS; ALSO THAT REINTRODUCTION OF USAF WOULD NOT BE AUTOMATIC BUT DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE QUICK BECAUSE US COULD NOT "WAIT TO SEE IF SAIGON HAD ALREADY LOST" BEFORE STRIKING. GETLER ADDS THAT ADMIN HAS SOUGHT TO SUSTAIN DOUBTS IN HANOI'S MIND ON FUTURE BOMBING IN HOPE THAT THIS WOULD HELP PERSUADE NVN NOT TO ATTACK IN FORCE. ON TV, LAIRD REJECTED THIS LOGIC; SAID CONGRESS WOULD TURN DOWN BOMBING BECAUSE VIETNAMIZATION

WAS TO GIVE SAIGON TIME AND EQUIPMENT TO FIGHT AND TO END US INVOLVEMENT. "NOW IF THEY DON'T HAVE THE WILL OR THE DESIRE TO PROTECT THEIR OWN IN-COUNTRY SECURITY, WE SHOULD NOT DO ANYTHING ELSE".

5. MCARTHUR (LAT JAN. 16) FROM SAIGON DESCRIBES THIEU'S W-KEY CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THIRD TERM, TO CANCEL PROVINCE-CHIEF ELECTIONS, AND TO GAIN CONTROL OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SELECTION. PROPOSALS SURFACED IN SENATE QUIETLY, POSSIBLE OUTCRIES WERE MUTED BY PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVER, AND CHANGES

RIPE SINCE HE CONTROLS TWO-THIRDS OF BOTH SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. MACARTHUR SAYS 1967 CONSTITUTION WITH TWO-TERM LIMIT WAS ADOPTED LARGELY AT US URGING, BUT US IS QUIET ON SUBJECT. YEAR AGO THIEU MOVE MIGHT HAVE PROVOKED OUTCRIES AND DISTURBANCES BUT HE HAS SINCE GAINED FIRM CONTROL AND OPPOSITION HAS LARGELY "FADED INTO THE WOODWORK".

6. FINNEY (NYT) FROM WASHINGTON REPORTS THAT US-FINANCED THAI IRREGULARS BEING PULLED OUT OF LAOS WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREEMENT WITH RTG. QUOTES DOS OFFICIALS THAT 5000 IRREGULARS REMAIN AFTER PEAK OF 21,400 IN 1972 AT COST TO US OF ABOUT 100 MILLION DOLS PER YEAR. FINNEY SAYS THAIS WERE LAST ELEMENT INTRODUCED INTO LAOS BY CIA THAT HAD EARLIER ORGANIZED 30,000 TRIBESMEN TO DEFEND RLG. WHEN TRIBESMEN DECIMATED, CIA WITH SOUVANNA APPROVAL RECRUITED THAI "VOLUNTEERS". FIRST CIA PAID THEM, BUT THEN DOD, AND DOD WILL NOT HAVE MILITARY AID FUNDS UNCLASSIFIED

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AFTER JULY 1 TO FINANCE THEM. DOS AND DOD OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAI IRREGULARS FULFILLED ROLE IN DEFENDING RLG; WITHOUT THEM SOUVANNA WOULD NOT HAVE OBTAINED C-F. THAIS REPORTED TO HAVE SUFFERED "HEAVY CASUALTIES", BUT EXACT LOSSES SECRET AT REQUEST OF RTG. USE OF THAI FORCES WAS CONTROVERSIAL IN CONGRESS AFTER DISCOVERED IN 1971. PRESENT WITHDRAWAL IN LINE WITH C-F REQUIREMENTS. NVN, ACCORDING TO DOS OFFICIALS, HAS WITHDRAWN FORCES FROM PDJ BUT IS KEEPING MANY IN PANHANDLE ALONG SUPPLY LINES TO SVN.

INDONESIA

7. JAKARTA RIOTS CONTINUED WEDNESDAY WITH RIOTERS, WHO SPENT MUCH OF TUESDAY DESTROYING JAPAN-MADE AUTOS AND JAPANESE-OWNED BUSINESSES, TURNING TO BURNING AND LOONG DISTRICT F OF CHINESE-OWNED BARS, CAFES AND MASSAGE PARLORS (UPI NYDN, PHINQ; CHITRIB). REUTER JAKARTA CITES CITY'S GARRISON COMMAND REPORT THAT 500 BUILDINGS, NEARLY ALL JAPANESE, DESTROYED THUS FAR AND MORE THAN 171 ARRESTED (SUN).

8. REUTER JAKARTA REPORTS TROOPS OCCUPIED INDONESIA

U CAMPUS THURSDAY SHORTLY AFTER TANAKA'S DEPAWRE FOR HOME; EARLIER, STUDENT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN REPORTEDLY ARRESTED AND SEVERAL INTELLECTUALS DETAINED. SUHARTO ARRESTED AND SEVERAL INTELLECTUALS DETAINED. SUHARTO SUMMONED CABINET, ALSO CALLED IN GEN. SUMITRO. AFTER THREE-HOUR CABINET SESSION, INFO MINISTER REPORTS GOI

IS MAKING THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO DISORDERS TO FIND THOSE RESPONSIBLE, WHO WILL BE STRICTLY DEALT WITH; SAYS ALL-NIGHT CURFEW WILL BE LIFTED WHEN SITUATION PERMITS. IN FIRST OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF CASUALTIES, 10 PEOPLE REPORTED KILLED AND 105 INJURED, INCLUDING 14 STILL RECEIVING HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

9. IN JAKARTA, WP'S OBERDORFER SEES "ANTI-JAPANESE PHASE" OF ERUPTION BY RABBLE, STUDENTS AND OTHER DISSIDENTS "MOVING IN ON CLOSER TARGETS." NOTES THAT WHILE GOI LEADERS EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THEY WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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MUSTER SUFFICIENT POWER AND UNITY TO CARRY ON, "SUDDENLY EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED, HOWEVER, AND NOBODY CAN BE SURE." ALTHOUGH RIOTING AND BURNING WAS ON SMALLER SCALE WEDNESDAY, "MOOD HAS BECOME UGLIER." SAYS GROWING CONSENSUS IS THAT TANAKATRIP WAS MERELY TRIGGER AND EXCUSE AND THAT UNDERLYING TINDER IS "DEEP FRUSTRATION" OF MASSES AND MANY INTELLECTUALS. OBERDORFER AND HALLORAN (NYT) ERT GGOJ'S FORMAL PROTEST AND CITE MALIK'S HOPES THAT SITUATION CAN BE NORMALIZED AND DEMONSTRATORS' DEMANDS FOR REFORMS CONSIDERED.

CHINA

10. CSM'S SAIKOWSKI SAYS REPORTS OF PRC INTEREST IN PURCHASING US TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS HAVE STIRRED DIPLOMATIC SENSITIVITIES IN WASHINGTON, BUT "OFFICIAL LINE" IS THAT EXCITEMENT IS NOT WARRANTED BY FACTS. SAYS DOS AND COMMERCE DEPT. OFFICIALS STRESS THAT SUCH CHOPPER SALES WOULD NEED EXPORT LICENSE OK AND WOULD HAVE TO BE DESIGNED FOR CIVILIAN USE ONLY; SALE OF NON-MILITARY CRAFT WOULD NOT BE

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL EXPORT-CONTROL POLICY AND COULD BE HANDLED ROUTINELY, WITHOUT PRESIDENTIAL OR NSC DECISION; DISCUSSIONS OF SALE ARE ONLY IN PRELIMINARY STAGE; AND THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT NUMBER OF CHOPPERS INVOLVED IS MORE THAN 20.

11. SUN'S ISAACS, IN HK, NOTES CHINA IS TATING GRADUATION OF FIRST CLASS OF "WORKER-PEASANT-SOLDIER STUDENTS" FROM PEKING'S UNIVERSITIES AS HIGHLY

SIGNIFICANT EVENT, INDICATING CONTINUED OFFICIAL
APPROVAL OF REFORMED UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

12. LEADER OF PRC MILITARY DELEGATION TO ISLAMABAD
PLEDGES CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLE OF KASHMIRI

13. PRC EMERGES AS LARGEST SINGLE FOREIGN BUYER OF
US WHEAT IN 1973-74 SEASON, AGRICULTURE DEPT. REPORTS
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(UPI, JOC).

THAILAND

14. FM CHARUMPHAN JAN. 16 SPEECH AT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS
CLUB DINNER INVITES SOVIET TO ASSUME KEY ROLE IN ESTABLISH-
ING SEA PEACE, BUT AT SAME TIME INDICATES STRONGLY
THAT RTG HAS NO INTENTION SEEKING LARGE-SCALE
WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY FORCES FROM THAI BASES UNTIL
SATISFIED SEA WAR IS ENDED. NYT'S CLARITY REPORTS WESTERN
DIPLOMATS AND CLOSE FM AIDES SAY SPEECH WAS MOST
COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF RTG FOREIGN POLICY GIVEN
SINCE PRESENT INTERIM GOVT. CAME TO POWER, AND ALSO
MARKED FIRST SUCH RTG OPEN INVITATION TO USSR.

JAPAN

15. SUN'S SEIDEN, IN TOKYO, REPORTS FLURRY OF SOUL-
SEARCHING AMONG JAPANESE ABOUT COUNTRY'S IMAGE ABROAD
IN WAKE OF TANAKA'S HAVING "FAILED. . . MISERABLY"
ON RECENT 10-DAY SEA TOUR TO IMPROVE THAT IMAGE.
HOWEVER, JUST AS TANAKA OFFERED "FEW CONCRETE
COMPROMISES" TO SEA PROTESTERS, SOUL-SEARCHING IN
JAPAN APPEARS TO CENTER ON JAPANESE IMAGE, RATHER
THAN ON SUBSTANCE OF COMPLAINTS. CONCLUDES THAT AT
LEAST SOME SEA COMPLAINTS "APPEAR TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE
SUBSTANCE" IN VIEW OF JAPAN'S GROWING ECONOMIC
DOMINANCE OF REGION.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

16. WP EDITORIALIZES ON THAI INCIDENT OF FAKED CIA LETTER.
QUOTING BANGKOK RADIO RE US INVOLVEMENT IN "FIGHT TO
SUPPRESS COMMUNIST TERRORISTS," WP SAYS INCIDENT
COMPROMISES RTG CLAIM THAT INSURGENTS, BUT NOT THE
GOVT., LACK INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. ASKS: HOW
COULD THE CIA BE INSENSITIVE TO THE CENTRAL POLITICAL
VALUE OF THIS CLAIM IN A STRUGGLE AGAINST WHAT IS SAID
TO BE FOREIGN-SUPPORTED INSURGENCY? MOST TROUBLING
ASPECT OF INCIDENT GOES BEYOND DAMAGE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN
DONE TO US-THAI RELATIONS. HOW DEEPLY IS US "INVOLVED
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IN THE FIGHT TO SUPPRESS THE COMMUNIST TERRORISTS,"
IN BANGKOK RADIO'S WORDS? SENATE STAFF REPORT LAST
JUNE STATED THERE WERE 545 AMERICANS WORKING IN THAI
COUNTER-INSURGENCY WITHIN USMAC. IF, AS THAI COUNTER-

INSURGENCY CHIEF SAYS, "IT HAS ESPECIALLY BEEN THE
PRINCIPLE OF (HIS PROGRAM) THAT THE FIGHT TO SUPPRESS
COMMUNISTS IS THE THAI PEOPLE'S AFFAIR," THEN WHAT
ARE ALL THOSE AMERICANS DOING, WHETHER THEY ARE
INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE CIA? THAI LEADERSHIP INDICATED
ITS DECISION TO PUT SOME NATIONALISTIC DISTANCE
BETWEEN ITSELF AND THAILAND'S FORMER AMERICAN PATRONS.
THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE CHOICE FLOWING FROM WINDING
DOWN OF US ROLE IN INDOCHINA. THAIS, WHO LIVE THERE,
ARE ADJUSTING; BUT WE AMERICANS STILL HAVE QUESTIONS
TO ASK ABOUT ANY RESIDUAL COUNTERINSURGENCY ROLE.
IT SOUNDS TOO MUCH LIKE VN.

17. NYT'S MARKHAM IN SAIGON REPORTS AMBASSADOR
MARTIN AS HAVING ASSERTED FIRM CONTROL OF OFFICIAL
AMERICAN COMMUNITY, ESTABLISHED "SEVERELY RESTRICTIVE"
PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY AND GIVEN ALMOST UNCITICAL
SUPPORT TO THIEU GOVT. DESCRIBED AS A STRONG FAMILY
MAN AND A DEVOTED FRIEND, MARTIN'S AMBASSADORIAL
STYLE IS "RECLUSIVE TO THE POINT OF SECRETIVENESS".
HE SEES ONLY A RESTRICTED CIRCLE OF HIGH-RANKING
SVN OFFICIALS; HE HAS NO KNOWN CONTACT WITH OPPOSITION
FIGURES, AND HAS NOT MET ALL MIDDLE-LEVEL STAFF MEMBERS.
ONE SUCH JOKINGLY CALLS HIM GOD, "I KNOW HE EXISTS,
BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM." MARTIN IS KNOWN TO LECTURE
VISITORS ABOUT DAMAGE THAT "IRRESPONSIBLE" REPORTING
DID TO US EFFORT IN VN, AND IS EVIDENTLY DETERMINED
NOT TO SUFFER SIMILAR REPORTING WHILE IN SAIGON.
NYT CORRESPONDENTS HAVE REPEATEDLY REQUESTED INTERVIEWS
WITH MARTIN; NONE HAS BEEN GRANTED. ACCESS TO US
OFFICIALS HAS BEEN SHARPLY RESTRICTED SINCE HIS ARRIVAL;
VETERAN VN CORRESPONDENTS WHO PERIODICALLY RETURN
TO SAIGON FIND THAT OLD FRIENDS IN MISSION ARE NERVOUS
ABOUT TALKING WITH THEM. MARTIN PERSONALLY PASSES
ON INTERVIEWS WITH EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS WHO HOLD
SENSITIVE POSTS AND HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY CUT OFF
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JOURNALISTS' OFFICIAL ACCESS TO DAO. CITES ASSOCIATE
AS SAYING THAT STREAK OF INSOMNIA AND PASSION TO
SIFT THROUGH RAW INTELLIGENCE DATA KEEP MARTIN UP
AT HOME UNTIL 2AM, READING ALMOST EVERYTHING SUBORDI-
NATES WRITE. EMPHASIS ON DETAIL LIFTED SPIRITS OF
SOME FSOS, BUT OTHERS SAY THERE IS DISTINCT PRESSURE

TO CAST THINGS IN OPTIMISTIC LIGHT.

18. ST. L. P-D (JAN. 13) REFERS TO RECENT SCHLESINGER INTERVIEW STATEMENTS, AND TO ONE REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR MARTIN LEADS "FATION" PUSHING FOR INCREASE OF 1 BILLION OVER THE 813 MILLION DOLS ALREADY APPROPRIATED THIS FY FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SVN, AS DISQUIETING NEWS SUGGESTING THAT ADMIN HAS YET TO FULLY DISENGAGE FROM WAR MENTALITY. INTERPRETING FURTHER MILITARY AID AND OTHER US ACTIONS AS REPUDIATION OF PEACE AGREEMENT, P-D SAYS US HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ENOUGH SUFFERING IN VN AND SHOULD COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL PROCESS BY REFUSING INCREASE AID TO THIEU AND BY HONORING PARIS AGREEMENT.

19. AUSSIE CHINA-WATCHER ROSS TERRILL, NOW AT HARVARD, TELLS ELIOT JANEWAY (CHITRIB) MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAO REGIME ARE SOCIOLOGICAL AND STRUCTURAL RATHER THAN ECON; NARROWING GAP OF LITERACY IS HIGH ON LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS AS IS IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTH CARE AND POSITION OF WOMEN. REGIME STRESSES IRRIGATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION, OPENING ROADS TO COMMUNES AND PUSHING LIGHT TRUCK PRODUCTION; AND SUCCESSFULLY CRUSADED AGAINST CORRUPTION. UNDER MAO, TERRILL DOES NOT FORESEE USSR AND CHINA MAKING UP, BECAUSE IDEOLOGICAL CLEAVAGE IS REAL AND INSURMOUNTABLE. RUSSIAN APPROACH WAS TO DOWNGRADE THE PEASANTS, BUT MAO'S ORGINALITY WAS IN PUTTING THEM IN LEADING ROLE. MAO HAS PRESIDED OVER 10 INNER-PARTY CRISES, AND EACH CENTERED ABOUT RUSSIA AS ENEMY. MAO'S SUCCESSORS MAY VERY WELL NOT CARRY ON THIS BITTER GRUDGE, BUT THE CHINESE WILL NEVER AGAIN TRUST SOVIETS IDEOLOGICALLY, ECONOMICALLY, OR AS SOURCE OF MILITARY SUPPLY. SEES NO IMMEDIATE DANGER OF RUSSIA AND CHINA DRAWING CLOSER TOGETHER, OR OF WAR BETWEEN THEM.
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20. IN CONTEXT OF PARK'S JAN 8 EMERGENCY DECREE, CSM ALLUDES TO POSSIBILITY OF HEAD-ON CLASH BETWEEN ROKG AND FORCES DEMANDING RETURN TO DEMOCRACY. THIS COULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR US, WHICH HAS 42,000 TROOPS IN SK AND IS BOUND TO ROKG BY DEFENSE AGREEMENT, SINCE KIM IL SUNG IS CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUBVERSION IN SK. LATEST PARK MEASURES JEOPARDIZE HOPE FOR EARLY RELEASE OF KIM DAE JUNG; HIS FRIENDS FEAR REGIME MAY BRING HIM TO TRIAL ON TRUMPED-UP CHARGES OF SUBVERSION ACTIVITIES. CITES THOUGHTFUL OBSERVERS OF KOREAN SCENE AS SAYING THAT SITUATION CANNOT GO ON INDEFINITELY AS IT IS, GIVEN THE STRENGTH AND FEELING OF DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION. US SHOULD THEREFORE BE USING ALL ITS INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE PARK TO MODIFY HIS POLICE-STATE METHODS AND SHOW

MORE CONCILIATION. IT MUST BE HOPED THAT SOMEONE
IN STATE DEPARTMENT IS TAKING ACTION EVEN IF HAK
HAS HIS HANDS FULL.

21. LAT'S JACK FOISIE (JAN. 16) IN BANGKOK

DESCRIBES

KINTNER AS AN EX-PROFESSIONAL MILITARIST TURNED PROFESSOR
WHO HAS WRITTEN 12 BOOKS WITH GENERALLY HAWKISH IDEAS
ABOUT GLOBAL MILITARY-POLITICAL STRATEGY. REPORTS
THAT KINTNER SPOKE TO FOUR ASIA-BASED US NEWSMEN,
AT THEIR REQUEST TUESDAY, TO ELABORATE ON THE MOST
RECENT "CAUSE" OF STUDENT ANTI-AMERICAN PROTESTS -
THE FAKED LETTER. SAYS KINTNER MADE GENERAL DEFENSE
OF CIA IN THAILAND, ASSERTING THAT MUCH OF CIA STAFF
OPERATED IN "EXTERNAL INTELLIGENCE GATHERING" FOR
US AND THAI USE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ONE SUCH ACTIVITY
WAS INTERCEPTION AND INTERPRETATION OF FOREIGN-LANGUAGE
BROADCASTS BY NATIONS FRIENDLY OR UNFRIENDLY TO THAILAND
AND US. OTHER CIA AGENTS, HE SAID, COLLECTED INFO
ABOUT INSURGENTS AND THEIR TACTICS AND PASSED THIS
INFO TO THEIR THAI COUNTERPARTS. IN ADDITION, THEY
INSTRUCTED THAIS IN INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING. ALL THESE
DUTIES WERE AT THAI REQUEST, HE MAINTAINED. ON REDUCING
US MILITARY PRESENCE, KINTNER SAID IF NO SIZABLE NVN-
PROMPTED ATTACKS OCCURRED AGAINST SVN DURING REMAINING
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WINTER MONTHS, AND IF CAMBODIA MILITARY SITUATION
REMAINED STALEMATED, HE HOPED A FURTHER US WITHDRAWAL
FROM THAILAND WOULD BE POSSIBLE. IN JUSTIFICATION
OF PRESENT HIGH-LEVEL STANDBY FORCE, KINTNER SAID:
"HANOI IS A HARD-BOILED REGIME". AS FOR AMERICAN
STAFF LEVELS IN EMBASSY, AID MISSION AND USIS, KINTNER
SAID IT IS RATHER ON THE LARGE SIDE, ADDING THAT AS
A NONCAREER DIPLOMAT HE WOULD BE FREE TO RECOMMEND
SIZABLE REDUCTIONS IF HE THOUGHT THEM APPROPRIATE.
KINTNER DISCLOSED HE PLANNING "CONSULTATION" VISIT
TO WASHINGTON IN MARCH AFTER COMPLETING HIS APPRAISAL
OF THAI MILITARY-POLITICAL SITUATION AND, TO LIMITED
EXTENT, PROBLEMS IN SURROUNDING NATIONS.

2. CHITRIB NOTES MOVE BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO LET
THIEU RUN FOR THIRD TERM; CONSIDERS THIS ONE MORE
STEP TOWARD CREATING A THIEU DYNASTY. OTHER DYNASTIES
ARE BEING CREATED IN SK AND PHILS, TWO COUNTRIES WE
TRIED TO HELP AND INFLUENCE. CONCEDES THAT DEMOCRACY
HAS NO LONG TRAITION IN ASIA, THAT THESE THREE NATIONS
HAVE BEEN LIVING UNDER INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL THREATS
THAT ENABLED THEIR LEADERS TO RATIONALIZE REJECTION
OF DEMOCRATIC FORMS. HOWEVER, TRIB EXPRESSES "NAGGING
THOUGHT" THAT WE DID NOT PROVIDE THE ASIANS WITH A
DEMOCRATIC EXAMPLE SO INSPIRING THAT IT MADE EMULATION

IRRESISTIBLE.

23. WSJ EDIT REFERS TO JOHN BURNS' ARTICLE ABOUT THE STRANGE CASE OF A TEACHER DISCIPLINING CANTON YOUTH FOR CHEATING IN MATH EXAM. NOTES THAT PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTED AMBIGUOUSLY WITH EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT "ALL REVOLUTIONARY TEACHERS WILL STAND ON THE SIDE OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S PROLETARIAN REVOLUTIONARY LINE, REPUDIATE THE BOURGEOIS WORLD OUTLOOK, AND CARRY OUT THE MOVEMENT OF CRITICISM, REPUDIATION AND TRANSFORMATION IN THE SCHOOLS". WSJ REMARKS THAT APPARENTLY PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORS WERE UNDECIDED WHETHER TO DEFEND THEIR EARLIER CALL FOR SWEEPING REFORMS IN OLD EXAM SYSTEM, TO UPHOLD PARTY LINE THAT SANCTIONS HUMILIATING AND DEBASING TEACHERS, OR RISK SEEMING TO APPROVE OF YOUNGSTERS NOT LEARNING UNCLASSIFIED

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MATH. BOURGEOIS OR NOT, MATH ISN'T SUBJECT TO IDEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION; EVEN MAO HASN'T FOUND WAY TO KEEP TWO PLUS TWO FROM EQUALLING FOUR.

24. IN LETTER TO NYT EDITOR, EX-FSO ED CLUBB TAKES EXCEPTION TO NYT'S DEC. 31 EDITORIAL THAT NOV. COMMUNIQUE WROUGHT "A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE" IN PRC POSITION RE TAIWAN. CLUBB SAYS THAT CONCLUSION THAT "TAIWAN PROBLEM SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TACITLY - IF TEMPORARILY - SHELVED ON PEKING'S OWN INITIATIVE..." WAS INFERENTIALLY BASED ON CIRCUMSTANCES THAT NOV. COMMUNIQUE SET FORTH PRC POSITION AS BEING SIMPLY THAT "THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS CAN BE REALIZED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF CONFIRMING THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE CHINA" AND DID NOT REITERATE FOUR OTHER COMPLAINTS VOICED BY PEKING IN 1972 COMMUNIQUE. CLUBB ARGUES THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF "ONE-CHINA" PRINCIPLE WOULD MEAN THAT OTHER FOUR MATTERS WOULD BE DEALT WITH AUTOMATICALLY; AND ANYWAY, NOV. COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT TWO SIDES WILL CONTINUE TO ENDEAVOR TO PROMOTE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS "ON THE BASIS OF THE SHANGHAI (1972) COMMUNIQUE". SAYS IT IS NOW FULLY EVIJENT THAT WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE TO HAVE TAIPEI AND PEKING NEGOT "PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE TAIWAN QUESTION" BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THUS RELIEVE US OF THAT PARTICULAR INCUBUS. HOWEVER, NOTING ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO TAIWAN'S REMAINING DETACHED FROM CHINA, CLUBB THINKS IT BEYOND REASONABLE EXPECTATION FOR TAIWAN TO NEGOT ENTRY UNDER PEKING RULE. LIKEWIUE, HE CONTENTS, IT IS NOT TO BE EXPECTED THAT MAO WOULD GIVE SOMETHING FOR NOTHING; WITHOUT SOME VALUABLE POLITICAL OR ECON QUID PRO QUO - WHICH IS NOT IN EVIDENCE - HE WOULD NOT REACTIVATE TAIWAN QUESTION. THUS, THERE IS VISIBLE NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN SINO-US RELATIONSHIP, WHICH, PENDING MAJOR

DEVELOPMENTS, APPEARS RESTING QUIESCENTLY ON PLATEAU.
RUSH

UNCLASSIFIED

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Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JANUARY 17 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, XC, US, VS
To: SAIGON INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
HONG KONG
NHA TRANG

JEC PARIS
USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COGARD POLAD
XMT SUVA

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005